

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 20, 2007

GOVERNOR BARBOUR SETS NOVEMBER 4, 2008,
AS DATE FOR SPECIAL SENATE ELECTION

(JACKSON, Mississippi) – Governor Haley Barbour was officially notified Thursday that a vacancy exists in the office of United States Senator for Mississippi due to the resignation of Senator Trent Lott and set November 4, 2008, as the date for a special election to fill Lott's unexpired term.

In a "Writ of Election" filed with the Mississippi Secretary of State, Governor Barbour said he received official notification from the Secretary of the U.S. Senate; he moved immediately to set a date for the special election.

"The Seventeenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States provides that when a vacancy happens in the representation of any State in the United States Senate, the executive authority of such State shall issue a writ of election to fill such vacancy," Governor Barbour said.

He also cited Article V, Section 116 of the Constitution of the State of Mississippi providing that the executive authority of the State of Mississippi shall be vested in the Governor of the State of Mississippi; and declared the vacancy in the office of United States Senator for Mississippi has occurred in a year in which there shall be held a general state or congressional election.

Under Mississippi law, candidates for the vacant seat must qualify for the special election by filing petitions pursuant to the provisions of Section 23-15-359 Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended, with the State Board of Election Commissioners no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 11, 2008. If a runoff election shall be required, it shall be held on Tuesday, November 25, 2008, in accordance with Section 23-15-833, Mississippi Code of 1972, as amended.

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